



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rep. Mark Spreitzer applauds expansion of Family Care & IRIS to Rock County**

BELOIT – On July 1, after years of waiting and months of planning, the Family Care and IRIS programs officially launched in Rock County. Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) praised the expansion of these long-term care programs.

“I am happy to see that the residents of Rock County will now have access to affordable, comprehensive, and long-term care that encourages independence while recognizing the need for support,” said Rep. Spreitzer. “The first group of Rock County residents, including approximately 300 disabled and 100 long term support recipients, have now transitioned. I’d like to thank those involved in helping guide this transition for all their hard work: Rock County, the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Rock County, Community Care Connections of Wisconsin, My Choice Family Care, and TMG.”

Family Care and the self-directed services option known as IRIS provide community-based, long-term care services to the low-income elderly and to low-income adults with physical or developmental disabilities.

“I am proud to have helped work on the legislation that brought Family Care and IRIS to Rock County,” Spreitzer added. “After almost 10 years of uncertainty, members of our communities can finally get the help they deserve.”

The Family Care/IRIS expansion has been occurring throughout Wisconsin since 2007. After a 2011 freeze on long-term care expansion, a few counties had yet to transition. Rock County adopted a resolution in 2014 to begin implementation of Family Care/IRIS but was left waiting. The result was long waiting lists and uncertainty for Rock County residents as to when to expect Family Care/IRIS. Bipartisan passage of AB 453 allowed Rock County to make this transition beginning July 1.

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